

## Philosophy 20A – History of Ancient Greek Philosophy

Fall 2008

### Final Exam Review Sheet

If you are able to answer the following questions *completely and accurately*, you should do quite well on the Final exam. The answers to everything listed below can be found in either the *course readings* or the *course lecture notes*.

1. What is the gist of Plato's "two worlds" theory?
2. Summarize and briefly explain Plato's "allegory of the cave" and how the allegory relates to Plato's "two worlds" theory.
3. What are some of the essential points of Plato's "theory of the forms"?
4. What is the "third man argument" and how (specifically) is it supposed to cause trouble for Plato's "theory of the forms"?
5. What are some of the basic differences between Plato and Aristotle's way of doing philosophy?
6. How is Aristotle's notion of "form" similar to and yet different from Plato's view?
7. Summarize and explain Aristotle's notion of the "four causes"?
8. What is the "material" cause of a thing?
9. What is the "formal" cause of a thing?
10. What is the "efficient" cause of a thing?
11. What is the "final" cause of a thing?
12. According to Aristotle, what is *necessary and sufficient* for an adequate explanation (or account) of any given thing?
13. Summarize and explain Aristotle's account of motion and change in terms of "potentiality and actuality".
14. Why does Aristotle think that there must be some "first source" of motion (or change)?
15. As it is characterized in the lecture notes, what is the argument put forward in favor of the existence of Aristotle's "unmoved mover"?
16. What, according to Aristotle, is the "highest good" or goal of the human life?
17. What kind of life is *not* the "happy (*eudaimonistic*) life" and why?
18. What is Aristotle's "function argument"? What is the argument supposed to show? And how does it factor into Aristotle's account of human goodness and "happy (*eudaimonistic*) life"? What are some of the worries/objections facing the "function argument"?
19. According to Aristotle, what is the "distinctive" human function?
20. Summarize and explain Aristotle's notion of moral "virtue". How does Aristotle define the notion of a "virtue of character"? What are the various constituent elements of such a notion of virtue?

21. Summarize and explain Aristotle's "doctrine of the mean". What does it mean to say that virtue "consists in a mean, relative to us"? How specifically is Aristotle's "doctrine of the mean" supposed to help us figure out what to do and what sort of persons we ought to be?
22. As it was characterized in the lecture notes, what is the Stoic "fate principle" and how is that principle supposed to cause problems for the notion of free will and moral responsibility?
23. According to the Stoics, what's the basic difference between a "theoretical impression" and a "impulsive impression"?
24. What is the gist of the "impulsive impression" argument and how is the argument supposed to undermine the truth of the Stoic's "fate principle"?
25. As it was characterized in the lecture notes, what is the "causal responsibility principle" and how is it related to the "impulsive impression" argument's criticism of the Stoic's "fate principle"?
26. Summarize and explain the basic strategy used by Chrysippus to respond to the challenge posed by the "causal responsibility principle" and "impulsive impression" argument. How is the strategy supposed to provide room for both the truth of the "fate principle" and existence of genuine moral responsibility?
27. According to Chrysippus, what's the basic difference between "auxiliary and proximate" versus "perfect and principal" causes? Which kind of causes are brought about by fate? Which kind of causes are brought about by agents?
28. Summarize and explain the gist of Epicurean "atomism"? How is a commitment to metaphysical atomism supposed threaten the existence of free will?
29. Summarize the basic strategy used by Epicurus to respond to the threat of determinism posed by atomism? How is the strategy supposed to provide room for both the truth of "atomism" and existence of free will?
30. Why, according to Epicurus', is it *irrational* to fear death?
31. State and explain the reasoning behind Epicurus' so-called "No Perception of Harm" and "No Subject of Harm" arguments. How (specifically) are these arguments supposed to support the claim that *death does not harm an individual and is therefore something that ought not to be feared by an individual*.
32. What are some of the possible worries/objections facing Epicurus' line of reasoning when it comes to the irrationality of fearing death?
33. What is the gist of Lucretius' "Symmetry" argument? Is this particular argument able to support the Epicurean position in a slightly different way than the other two arguments?